

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 10 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-9 and 11-30 are pending and under consideration.

II. THE REJECTION OF CLAIM 31 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 31 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph should be withdrawn.

III. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 10 AND 31 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(a) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY CARTER

Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) should be withdrawn.

As noted above, claim 31 has also been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) should be withdrawn.

IV. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/632,800

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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